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The Signal



Friday, October 22, 2004

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

Vol. 24, No. 1

News UPDATE

Retirement ceremony

A retirement retreat ceremony for Brig. Gen. Gregory Premo, deputy commanding general, will be held at 4:30 p.m. today at the Signal Towers flagpole.

Fall cleanup

Fort Gordon's fall cleanup is 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 5 for housing areas. All housing occupants are expected to participate; more information is available from area coordinators.

Cleanup for unit, billeting, departmental, training and common areas is Nov. 15-19. More information is available in Garrison Tasking Letter 04-289.

For information, call Sgt. Maj. Steven Goulet at 791-6483 or 840-4963.

Flu shot update

Due to the nationwide shortage of flu vaccines, flu shots at Eisenhower Army Medical Center are not available at this time.

Also, reports that a flu shot clinic was scheduled for Nov. 20 are incorrect. There are no flu shot clinics scheduled; watch the Signal for further updates.

For information call Jennifer Chipman, EAMC public affairs officer, at 787-5301.

Trick or treat hours

Fort Gordon Trick or Treat hours are 6-8 p.m. Oct. 29. MPs will block the following roads beginning at 5 p.m.:
□ Gordon Terrace: Brainard Avenue and 47th Street.
□ McNair Terrace: Garlington Drive.
□ Olive Terrace: North Range Road and Lilac Court, and 45th and Third avenues.
□ Maglin Terrace: Maglin and Myer drives.

Traffic may not enter the housing areas after roads are blocked. Walking patrols will be in Gordon, McNair and Olive terraces.

Residents in housing areas are encouraged to leave porch lights on even if not handing out candy to improve safety.



CFC update

The 2004 Combined Federal Campaign is underway.

As of Wednesday, 1,873 contributors here have donated \$164,711.12. The goal for 2004 is \$360,000. The campaign ends Nov. 8.

MPs shoot for first-place finish

Finish first in size group, sixth overall

Denise Allen
Signal staff

Fort Gordon's military police proved their skeptics wrong.

Last month, a three-member team with one alternate placed sixth at the Eighth Annual Warfighter Team Competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

"We showed them we can compete with those guys and beat most of them," said Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Johnson, the team's coach.

Among the eight teams from units of the same size of about 100 to 120 people, Fort Gordon's team from the 35th Military Police Detachment placed first.

This was the first year Fort Gordon had a team in the event.

Training was a challenge, said Johnson.

"We're not combat support," he said.

Many of the events in the challenge used equipment that a combat support unit would have. The team had to borrow some equipment from a National Guard unit.

Searching for equipment cut into their training time.

Johnson said he would have liked to have had about four months to train, but they only trained for a month. During those few weeks, the team, Spc. David Tovar, Pfc. Michael Bishop (alternate), Pfc. Lance Keesee, and Sgt. Ben Stephens, trained about 12



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Johnson

Spc. David Tovar, 35th Military Police Detachment, completes the confidence course at the Eighth Annual Warfighter Team Challenge at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., last month.

hours a day, six days a week.

The warfighter exercise included four days of grueling

events. Team members only had about nine hours of sleep over the course of the compe-

tion. Days began around 1 a.m.

Fort Gordon's team competed in a rigorous physical assessment. Unlike regular physical training, the event required Soldiers to perform elevated push-ups, a three-mile run and a rope climb with no break in between each event.

There were hands-on weapons tests including a disassembly/assembly test by a blindfolded competitor, a Humvee push and a 9-line MEDEVAC.

There was a written exam, 3,200-meter orienteering lane and a confidence course.

The competition ended with a 15-mile endurance march.

Despite the painful effort, team members said they enjoyed the experience.

"It was fun," said Tovar.

"There were teams over there that were much more serious than we were."

The ability to have fun probably worked to their advantage, said Johnson.

Team members were able to laugh at each other and their mistakes.

"They were more relaxed than other teams. They managed to joke," he said.

Johnson said the team finished all their tasks; something that not all of the teams did. Since all the team members finished, that boosted their score.

Next year, Johnson said he'd like to have two teams. There are two other military police units on post. Having the two teams compete against each other during their training would build stronger teams, he said.



Pfc. Lance Keesee, 35th MP Detachment, disassembles and reassembles his weapon while blindfolded, one of many competitions in the Warfighter Team Challenge.

Naval detachment marks 229 years of service

Spc. Junius Stone
Special to the Signal

The Naval Security Group Activity Unit stationed here celebrated the Navy's 229th birthday Saturday in Augusta.

More than 460 people gathered to mark the occasion, with the Sailors turning out in the Navy's distinctive dress white uniforms.

The NSGA took the time to remember their specific mission here: military intelligence. The guest speaker, retired Rear Adm. Dean Sackett, related tales of the Navy's history and how intelligence has often led to amazing success.

He noted especially America's victory over the Japanese navy in the Pacific.

"After Pearl Harbor, we lost a lot of ships. But we still had much of the fleet, including our carriers," Sackett said. "And our fuel supplies at Pearl were intact. And because of our ability to successfully gather intelligence against the Japanese, we met them at Midway, sinking four of their carriers to our one."

Cmdr. Gary Edwards, commanding officer of the NSGA here, also noted the mission of military intelligence and its importance in national security, especially in the War on Terror. He spoke of the unique interservice environment of Fort Gordon, and how the services so easily work together.

"We are all working together here on Fort Gordon, all of the services," Edwards said. "Being this close enables us to combine our resources and training to make the mission happen."

Servicemembers from all the services were present at the occasion. Those present took the time to remember the service that patrols the oceans as they saluted the Navy's history and celebrated her future.

The evening's theme was "1940s Pacific Shore Leave." A local military reenactment organization, the Central Savannah River Area Living History Group, displayed weapons, uniforms and equipment from the era.

The NSGA, which has more than 650 Sailors stationed here, saluted the 229 years ships flying the U.S. flag have sailed the world's oceans. That first U.S. naval force consisted of two ships, sent to intercept ships supplying British troops in America. Now, the Navy floats the planet's most powerful navy, consisting of more than 500 vessels of varied sizes and types.

The Navy has gone to battle throughout America's history, and scores of American Sailors have gotten underway never to return. Before the festivities, the Sailors also took a moment and paid a somber tribute to those comrades lost to the deep with its "Two Bell Ceremony."



Photo by Spc. Nicole Robus

Congressional MI visit

Maj. Gen. Jan Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, talks with Reps. Max Burns (R-12th, GA) and Peter Hoekstra (R-2nd, MI, on left) during the congressmen's visit here Friday. Burns and Hoekstra inspected the growing military intelligence community on post, including a tour of the Gordon Regional Security Operations Center and the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade headquarters. Hoekstra, Chairman of the House Select Intelligence Committee, remarked that "Congress sees a need for increased resources for signal and human intelligence gathering," while Burns said, without giving any guarantees, he's comfortable with Fort Gordon's position in light of the upcoming BRAC review. "I'm concentrating on the 'R' (realignment) and not the 'C' (closure) in BRAC," he said.

Regional firefighters study post department

Denise Allen
Signal staff

Kentucky state fire officials visited Fort Gordon last week. “We are looking for ways to partner” with other organizations, said Ronnie Day, executive director of the Kentucky Fire Commission Fire Rescue Training. The Oct. 14 visit to Fort Gordon included trips to several locations on post such as the fire station, where they viewed equipment including the mobile hazardous materials vehicle, and the Center for Total Access simulation lab, said Clark DuCharme, deputy chief of operations and plans with the Center for Total Access. “This is their second visit. We’ve been there once,” he said. Kentucky officials hope to join with others including Fort Campbell, Ky., in a Southeastern Regional Medical exercise

in May. That exercise will “cross lines between the civilian sector and the military,” DuCharme said. Through the exercise, both sides hope to glean information that will make fire service better. “There are lots of things going on, lots of swapping going on,” said Bob Hammonds, of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, who was another member of the group. The fire service and college system work together in Kentucky. Kentucky has a strong fire service of which officials are proud, said Day. The fire system has been hailed as a “model for the nation,” he said. The state has 22,000 firefighters, 17,000 of whom are volunteers and has a fire service budget of \$30 million. Many of the firefighters are cer-

tified in other areas; some are paramedics. To become a firefighter, those interested must pass high standards; many of Kentucky’s firefighters have international accreditations. Continued training is an important part of their firefighters’ careers. The state has 38 fixed training sites, and officials are always looking for ways to provide additional and improved training. Lt. Col. Richard Karlsson, Fort Gordon’s director of public safety, said it was good for Fort Gordon to have an “outside agency come to look” at what is being done on post. “Fort Gordon is really unique,” he said. The post has advanced equipment such as its mobile hazardous materials vehicle that very few civilian or military fire departments have.



Photo by Denise Allen

A contingency of firefighters from Kentucky (left), take a tour of Fort Gordon’s firehouse Oct. 14.

Team looks to axe competition

Fort Gordon firefighters to compete in world championship

Denise Allen
Signal staff

It's an event that has been dubbed the "toughest two minutes in sport."

Fort Gordon firefighters will travel to Las Vegas next month to compete in the World Firefighter Challenge XIII.

To prepare for the event, the Fort Gordon team has participated in five regional events over the past few months and trains daily, said Matt Williams assistant fire chief.

The firefighter challenge simulates "real-life firefighting" as participants perform "a linked series of five tasks including climbing the five-story tower, hoisting, chopping, dragging hoses and rescuing a life sized, 175-pound 'victim' as they race against themselves, their opponent and the clock," according to the challenge website, www.firefighter-challenge.com.

There are individual and team relay competitions.

Williams said the team's best effort was in September, where the team took third place, and



Courtesy photo

A firefighter from the post team aims water at a target as part of the competition.

Williams had the best time in the over-40 category.

Fort Gordon has been competing in the event for two years. The firefighters formed a team after someone saw the competition on television. ESPN broadcasts the event.

"It promotes physical fitness and camaraderie in the fire department," he said.

There are five members on the team — Williams, Jeff Phillips, who is the team captain, Mike Trainor, Marcus Peterson and Buck Roberts.

Williams said they look forward to the next competition, which will be Nov. 8 to 14.

Representatives from more than 200 different fire departments are expected to compete,

he said.

Firefighters from the civilian sector as well as the military will compete. Two other Army installations send teams, and there are several Air Force teams that compete.

Winners don't receive cash prizes in the contest.

"It's trophies and bragging rights," he said.

Fairs abound in Georgia, Carolinas

Denise Allen
Signal staff

Tis the season for state fairs.

Aiken's Western Carolina State Fair started Thursday.

In addition to a midway with rides and games, the Western Carolina State Fair has a variety of other activities and entertainment each night.

There's a demolition derby, lawn mower races and a rodeo with bull riding.

Shows include a live bear show called "Bear Mountain," and a puppet show with "Grandpa Cracthet." Also, Jeff Bates will be in concert at 8 p.m. Monday, and Josh Turner in concert at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

The fair features agricultural exhibits as well as arts and crafts exhibits.

The Western Carolina Fair is held at the fairgrounds on U.S. Highway 1 in Aiken.

Prices vary depending on whether a concert ticket is purchased. A mega pass with unlimited rides is \$15.

The fair runs through Oct. 30.

For more information, go to www.westerncarolinastatefair.com. Tickets may be purchased by phone at 278-4849.

LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR

The 52nd Annual Lincoln County Fair is going on through Saturday at the American Legion Post 194 Fairgrounds in Lincolnton. There are rides, concessions, games, fireworks and exhibits.

For information, call (706) 359-3445.

FAMILY FEST

A family fall fest will be from 5 to 10

p.m. Saturday at Mistletoe State Park in Appling. Activities include hayrides, a pumpkin scavenger hunt, a night hike, apple bobbing and storytelling.

The event is free for registered guests or \$5 per carload.

To reach Mistletoe State Park, take Interstate 20 to the Harlem/Appling exit. Turn right on Highway 47. Stay straight as the road goes onto Ray Owens Road. Turn left on White Oak Road; right on Dozier Road and left on Georgia Highway 150. Turn right on Mistletoe State Road.

For information, call 541-0321.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Georgia-Carolina State Fair opens Nov. 5 at the Exchange Club fairgrounds on Fourth Street in Augusta.

Documentary features Huey; the workhorse of Vietnam

Pfc. Armando Monroig
Signal staff

While it's said that time heals all wounds, for others, revisiting the past may only dredge up bad memories.

For some of the retired Vietnam veterans at Alexander Hall Saturday, the former was the case as they were treated to a special preview screening of the documentary, "In the Shadow of the Blade."

What began as a feature documentary on the Huey helicopter that was the valiant warriors' chariot during the Vietnam War eventually turned into a documentary about the men the machine carried in and out of war.

The documentary chronicled the journey of a restored Huey, tail number 091, as it made a 10,000-mile journey throughout the United States, stopping to visit Vietnam veterans or family members of those who served in Vietnam.

It gave those individuals the opportunity to ride one last time - or for some of the family members ride for the first time - in a Huey before it became part of the Smithsonian Institute's Vietnam War exhibit.

Part of the documentary, that runs 1 hour and 40 minutes, was filmed here on Fort Gordon at the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action memorial.

Prior to the film being played, Bob Young, city of Augusta mayor and Vietnam veteran, said a few words, and then introduced the guest speaker, Donna Rowe, a Vietnam veteran who served as a captain in the Army nurse corps from 1968-'69.

Rowe was a head nurse of the emergency triage at Third Field Hospital in Saigon.

"This film changed all our lives. It traveled over 10,000 miles and 42 landing zones," said Rowe. "It touched not only us, but it touched our families and loved ones."

She said the veterans who participated in the filming of the documentary experienced some healing, and she was given the opportunity to reunite with someone special to her after 34 years.

"I am extremely grateful (for the film) for opening this door to my past in Vietnam," said Rowe, adding that it tells the true story of the "caring, compassionate, and coura-

geous men and women who fought the Vietnam War."

There was not a dry eye in the house as scene after scene of touching memorable segments depicted the real-life events that Vietnam veterans endured during their time in service.

In one scene, a Soldier recounted the day his battle-buddy was shot and died in his arms. In another, a retired colonel talked about his captivity in prisoner of war camps.

Others talked about how the Huey carried so many Soldiers to the battlegrounds and picked up the injured and dead, with pilots and crew often risking and giving their lives to try to save their comrades.

And of course, one scene focused on the story of Rowe, who helped save the life of a Vietnamese baby whose mother was killed by the Vietcong.

The film was a true testament of the strength and honor in which the Soldiers who served in Vietnam fought. Many of whom did not receive any support from the American public once they returned home.

Another purpose of the film was to welcome home the Vietnam veterans, in some way, to make amends for the lack of support these warriors originally received.

As the film ended and the lights came back on, the teary-eyed audience gave a standing ovation to all the Vietnam veterans attending the screening.

Following the film, the audience gathered in the lobby for refreshments, and shared their reactions of the film and recounted their days in Vietnam.

The lobby was full of veterans wearing medals and hats saying "Vietnam Veteran," "POW/MIA," or wearing old unit patches proudly displaying the fact that they were Soldiers and survivors of the Vietnam War.

One of those individuals was

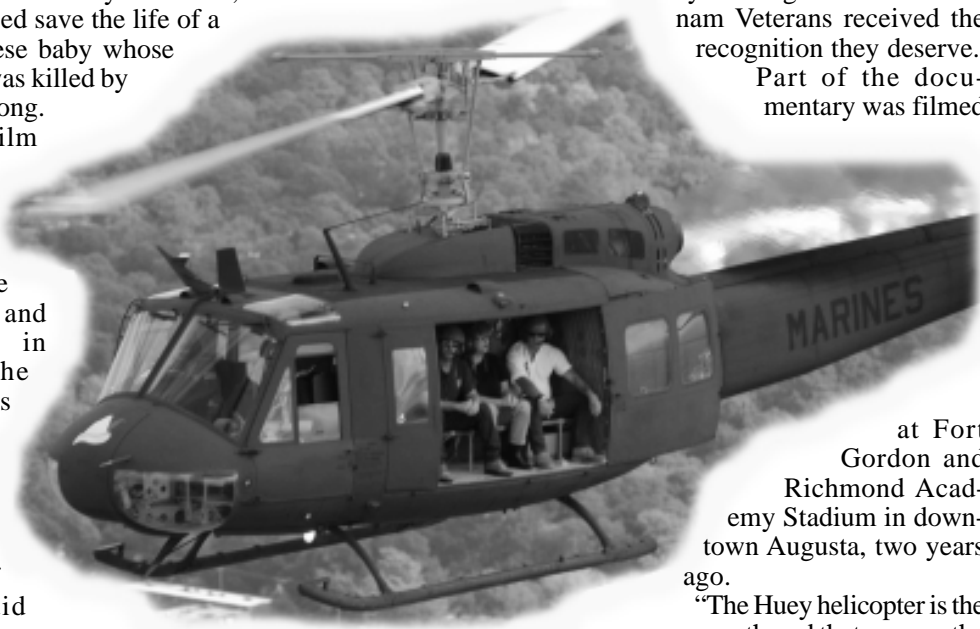
Walter Hunter, Vietnam Veteran and a retired command sergeant major who served from 1967-'69 with the 12th Cavalry Division.

"It brings back a lot of memories - a lot of good ones, a lot of sad ones, a lot of bad ones," Hunter said of the documentary.

He said it brought back memories of those he served with during his three tours in Vietnam.

"I lost a lot of friends," added Hunter. "This (film) is a memorial to them."

Fellow veteran Donald Singleton, who was featured in the film and served in the 101st Airborne Division during the war, said the film was a healing experience.



pany C, 551st Signal Battalion, thought the film was great.

"It was really inspirational," Soutullo said. "They did a really good job on (the film)."

He said the documentary made him think about the current world situation and seeing what the Vietnam Veterans endured made him proud to be a Soldier.

Pvt. Loren Pocock, Company C, 551st Signal Battalion, agreed with his battle buddy.

"It's one of the reasons I joined (the Army), to continue the legacy of Soldiers," said Pocock. "I've had family serve in almost every American War and am proud to continue the legacy."

He said it was very emotional watching the documentary and is glad that the Vietnam Veterans received the recognition they deserve.

Part of the documentary was filmed

at Fort Gordon and Richmond Academy Stadium in downtown Augusta, two years ago.

"The Huey helicopter is the common thread that weaves the stories of Vietnam veterans together - how the Huey helicopter played a role in their life and their service," said Young.

The documentary won "Best Documentary" and "Best of Show" at the World Fest-Houston International Film Festival this year and received the Vietnam Veterans of America President's Award for Outstanding Documentary. It is to be nationally released on Veterans Day. Soon after, it will be available to the public on DVD.

"It's a healing experience for me, all the other Vietnam Veterans and their families," said Singleton who served 19 months and 23 days in Vietnam.

He said he hopes everybody gets a chance to see the documentary.

And those veterans undoubtedly had an impact on today's generation of Soldiers, some of which were present at the viewing.

Pfc. Brian Soutullo, Com-

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary



Russ Blandin
Directorate of Public Safety

Halloween will be here soon, along with all the witches, ghosts, goblins, and other assorted ner do wells that haunt us each year at this time. The modern practice of children going about the neighborhood trick or treating stems from the 17th century when Irish peasants went about begging for money for a feast in honor of Collum Kill or St. Columba.

Halloween is a child's day, but the danger and hazards of those creepy, ghoulish costumes which children don not only strike fear into the hearts of those whose doors they knock, but they also present hazards to the children who wear them. To help ensure for a safe and fun-filled Halloween, follow these safety tips:

When shopping for costumes and accessories, buy only those labeled "flame resistant." Flowing/flimsy material should be avoided since they not only increase the risk of contact with flames or other sources of ignition but can and do get caught on handrails (baggy sleeves), and cause tripping on stairs and curbs (too-long or billowing skirts).

Accessories such as swords, knives, or wands should be made of soft or flexible material.

Check out masks that obscure vision or restrict breathing. Substitute with colorful facial make-up.

Hats and scarves that are not securely tied can also obstruct vision by slipping

down in front of a child's eyes.

Since the kids will be traveling on foot, they should wear something comfortable and slip resistant like sneakers.

Regardless of age, never let a child go trick-or-treating alone. Older children or adults should accompany them.

Suggest that trick-or-treat rounds be confined to your own neighborhood.

Urge children to wait until they get home to sort out and taste their treats so that parents can inspect them. Treats that are not factory wrapped or sealed should be discarded.

Keep exterior porch and lawn lights lit. Tell children not to call on homes with no lights and to generally avoid unlit property.

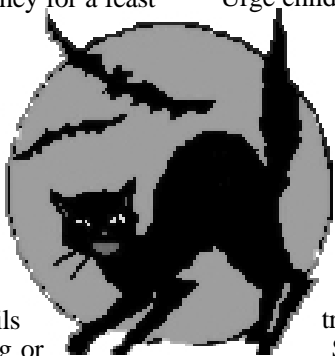
Since crossing streets will be involved, add reflective tape or "glow" spray paint to costumes to pick up the beams of auto headlights and be readily seen by motorists. Carrying a lit flashlight is a good way for the child to see and be seen. Children should be told to use added precautions they were taught for entering street traffic due to the added elements of distraction (excitement, the treat bag, and general horseplay).

Set a time for your children to return home.

Encourage participation in alternative Halloween activities such as organized parties.

Halloween can still be the highlight on your children's recreational calendar – and a safe one at that, if the proper precautions are taken.

Fort Gordon will observe Halloween on Oct. 29, from 6-8 p.m. Vehicular traffic in all housing areas should be kept to a minimum during this period.



Ways to stay safe on All Hallows Eve

Installation safety office

Halloween parties and trick or treating can be loads of fun, if it is safe fun. Most people are aware of potential Halloween dangers; such as tampered with candy, but parents and children often overlook hazards that can be equally tragic. The Signal Branch Safety Office offers the following tips for Halloween.

Trick-or-Treating

Do not allow a child to go "Trick or Treating" alone. Be sure older children use the "Buddy System" and young children are accompanied by an adult.

Be certain to accompany young children to the door of every house they approach.

Be certain that parents are familiar with every house and with all people from whom the children receive treats.

Children should be cautioned that they should not enter any home without prior permission from their parents.

Children should be cautioned not to approach any vehicle, occupied or not, unless they know the owner and are accompanied by a parent. Young children should always go trick-or-treating with an adult.

Wear costumes with light colors, so you can be seen in the dark.

Put reflective tape on your costumes and trick-or-treat bag.

All costumes and masks should be clearly marked as flame resistant.

Make sure long costumes won't make you trip.

Wear shoes that fit and have low heels so you won't fall.

Use a flashlight when walking at night. (Never carry a torch or candle while trick-or-treating).

Make sure that all children carry a glow stick or wear reflective clothing.

When using facial masks, make sure children can see and breathe properly and easily.

Visit only houses where the lights are on.

Accept treats only in the doorway. Never go inside a house.

Be sure and say thank you for your treats.

Cross the street at the corner or in a crosswalk.

Children should be warned never to approach any house that is not well lit and that does not have a porch light on.

Children should be cautioned to remember any suspicious incidents and report them to their parents and/or the proper official.

Make sure children should know to run away from people who try to lure them with special treats.

Instruct children to scream and make a scene if anyone tries to grab them or

force them, in any way, to go with them.

Parents should inspect all treats and dispose of anything that has been opened, has never been wrapped or seems susceptible to tampering.

Pumpkin carving

Carving pumpkins can be one of the most fun and creative Halloween activities. However, like most things, it's important to keep safety in mind. Follow these tips to safely create the perfect jack-o'-lantern:

Carving Tips

Consider the size and shape of your pumpkin before carving. Round pumpkins are good for making happy faces, while tall, thin pumpkins are best for scary expressions.

Keep matches, candles and lighted Jack-O-Lanterns out of the reach of small children, and away from flammable materials such as draperies, furniture and paper decorations.

Draw your design on paper first. Then copy the drawing onto the front of the pumpkin, or fasten the paper onto the pumpkin and carve into the paper.

Cut the lid at an angle so the outside diameter is larger than the inside. By doing this, you'll be sure that the top won't fall into the pumpkin. Make sure that your hand can easily fit through the lid opening so that you can

scoop out the insides of the pumpkin.

Clean out the pulp and seeds with a large spoon or your hands. Place newspaper underneath the pumpkin for easy clean up. Save the seeds for making baked pumpkin seed treats.

Carving Safety

Carve away from yourself, keeping part of the knife blade in the pumpkin.

Use slow steady, saw like strokes. It is easier to carve the features in the middle of the pumpkin first and work outward.

For areas with a lot of detail, cut with an X-Acto Knife. To make circles and curves, use the tip of a potato peeler.

Remove carved areas by either pushing them into or out of the pumpkin. By stabbing a chunk with a toothpick, you can pull it away from the pumpkin.

Keep matches, candles and lighted Jack-O-Lanterns out of the reach of small children, and away from flammable materials such as draperies, furniture and paper decorations. Create a flattened area in the bottom for a candle.

Remember to never leave children unattended. For that matter – now that you know how to carve a pumpkin – watch the untrained adults too. Adults can be really scary.



An alternative to All Hallows Eve

Fort Gordon's post-wide Protestant Sunday School and the post chapel congregations are offering an alternative for children whose parents want to avoid trick-or-treating and some of the other traditional Halloween activities.

Called "Hallelujah night," the event will be held from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 29 in Gym 4 on Barnes Avenue, for children four through 11 years of age.

Children should arrive between 5:40 and 6 p.m., when the program begins, and plan to stay for all the activities.

No one will be admitted after 6:15. Children age six and under



must be accompanied by an adult.

There is no charge. However, each participant or family is asked to contribute a big bag of candy.

Of course, no one will be turned away – candy or no candy.

Many people have raised concerns over dangers associated with trick-or-treating and with the root and influence of many customs and trapings associated with Halloween.

This event is in response to those concerns.

Hallelujah night will feature singing, candy, face painting, candy, carnival style games with biblical

names, candy, a craft activity, candy, food, and lots of candy.

Children are encouraged to wear costumes – especially costumes of their favorite biblical characters or favorite American heroes.

Please note, however, that no ghosts, goblins, demons, devils, witches, or any scary or evil creatures will be allowed.

Volunteers at the door will determine the suitability of each costume.

Anyone in a costume deemed to be inappropriate will have to change before entering.

For information call the Religious Education Center at 791-4703.

Feedback

Spc. Nicole Robus

What should happen to a Soldier who disobeys a lawful order?



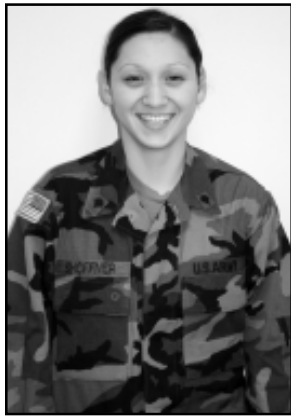
The Soldier should be punished under UCMJ depending on the situation and job experience of the Soldier.

Spc. Ovynten Rivera
HHC, USAG



Anyone who disobeys a lawful order should be punished. It is a quick decision process, when an order is given it should be executed.

Sgt. 1st Class Calvin Bemby
HQs and Company A
551st Signal Battalion



A Soldier should not be punished under UCMJ right away. It really depends on the seriousness of situation.

Spc. Cecilia Shoffner
35th MP Detachment



I believe that a Soldier should be counseled and given appropriate corrective training.

Sgt. Yvette Fields
HHC, USAG

The Signal

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Civilian Printer: Citizen Newspapers
Publisher: Roy F. Chalker Jr.
General Manager: Bonnie K. Taylor
Sales Representative: Faye Watkins and Deborah Kitchens
This Civilian Enterprise Newspaper is an authorized publication for all personnel at Fort Gordon. Contents of *The Signal* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, or the U.S. Army Signal Center. *The Signal* is published weekly using offset production.

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The contracting officer serves as liaison between the civilian printer

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Distribution on post is free, and circulation is 18,500 per week.

Quarterly winners recognized

Linda Means
Public affairs office

The quarterly awards ceremony was held Thursday in Conrad Hall.

The following Soldiers and civilians were recognized:

The Cook of the Quarter is Sgt. Terrilski Davis, a food service specialist in Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 93rd Signal Brigade.

In this position, Davis prepares the food menus each day, ensuring the servicemembers and guests receive three nutritionally balanced and eye-appealing meals daily, while striving to satisfy their appetites.

He controls and reports all cash receipts and prepares production schedules. He also processes work requests for equipment maintenance and prepares purchase requests for needed items, along with various other administrative responsibilities.

Born in Augusta and raised in Wadley, Ga., Davis has spent three years in the military including a tour of duty at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

His plans include starting school and working towards an associate degree in criminal justice; but ultimately would like to become a chief warrant officer. He lists his hobbies as exercising and drawing. Davis has two children, Terrilski, Jr. and Mykeria.



The Civilian of the Quarter is James Baugh, who works as an attorney in the Administrative and Civil Law Division of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. In this position, he serves as the labor counselor and works with commanders, managers and supervisors on management-employee relations issues, labor-management matters and equal employment opportunity complaints.

Baugh represents Fort Gordon in cases before the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the Department of Defense Office of Complaint Investigations and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

He said that the most meaningful part of his job is working with the military and civilian leaders here whose missions are critical to the security of our country and helping them accomplish their missions, while complying with the legal requirements of the federal Civil Service System.

Prior to his civil service assignment, he served in the U.S. Army from 1974 to 1977 as an enlisted interrogator/linguist and from 1982 to 1989 as an officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps.

His combined military and civilian service totals more than 25 years. Eventually, when he retires, he would like to go back to school to obtain his Ph.D. and teach history in a university setting. His wife Kay and son Christopher will continue to support him in all of his endeavors.

Spc. Vanessa Khan, an investigator assigned to the 35th Military Police Detachment, is Servicemember of the Quarter.

A native of Hartford, Ct., she has served in the Army for two years, spending most of that time at Fort Gordon investigating a wide variety of crimes including larcenies and assaults.

She provides security at major events, such as concerts and carnivals, and provides surveillance and monitoring of suspicious or illegal activities. She is also a juvenile probation officer, processing the offender from the capture through their punishment.

She said that being an MP is definitely not easy since they must know how to deal with all types of people and be ready for any situation. She also says that it is difficult work, because she must not only investigate crimes to the fullest, but also prepare everything to take the case to court martial or trial.

She is very proud that she and fellow investigators reduced the housing crime rate by 56 percent in two months, working 24-hour shifts.

To relax from the stress of the job, she attends Georgia Military College, hoping to obtain a bachelor's degree in business. She also enjoys watching television and playing computer games.



The Volunteer of the Month for July is Anthony Capozzoli, who has volunteered in St. Michael's Catholic Parish since 1988. So far in 2004, he has volunteered more than 1,800 hours.

He is solely responsible for St. Michael's Altar Server Ministry, training, scheduling and mentoring to the many young people who serve during the masses held at Good Shepherd Chapel.

He has been a teacher in the parish's Religious Education Program since 1992, and this coming school year, he will watch his first class of kindergartners graduate from high school.

He is also in charge of preparing students in the second grade sacramental program for their reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. This program alone demands many hours of preparation.

In his role as a Coalition Café leader, he mentors to high school and college students and facilitates group discussions on topics of interest to this age group.

In his professional life, Capozzoli works at Gordon Lakes Golf Course as a tractor operator and gardener.

He enjoys bowling, cooking and meeting new people. He hopes to eventually become a limousine driver and get married and start a family, while continuing to be a mentor and role model for the youth in his church community.

The Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter is Sgt. Christopher Pryor, who is assigned to Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, and works as a senior systems administrator in the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

In this position, he provides automation support for a moderate-sized local area network. His duties include software and hardware installation, troubleshooting, equipment accountability and turn-in.

He is also responsible for computer security, troubleshooting for the post surveillance system and network maintenance.

When he isn't taking care of his computer responsibilities, he can be found supporting DPTMS and the Installation Operations Center with their missions and exercises.

Pryor has served four years in the Army, while being stationed in Germany and deployed to Kosovo.

He hopes to soon complete a bachelor's degree in computer/information science from the University of Maryland and then continue with his graduate studies. He enjoys snowboarding, fishing, playing music, attending concerts and last, but not least, building computers and programming.



Sarah Ebey is the Volunteer of the Month for August. She has volunteered for the Army Community Service Financial Readiness and Army Emergency Relief Programs since October 2003.

Ebey maintains office files and counselor calendars, greets customers and inputs information into the organizational client database. She was an integral part of the ACS team that prepared all files for review by the Southwest Region Accreditation Team, which resulted in a passing score for all files.

She provides outstanding customer service to all ACS clients, from the spouse who needs assistance with the Lending Closet to the retiree who requests Army Emergency Relief funds. She always goes the extra mile for the Soldiers and their family members.

Ebey also assists in the Installation Volunteer Program office by compiling and categorizing all registered installation volunteers.

She helped with the installation of a new volunteer database and single-handedly entered more than 1,000 volunteer records.

She also holds down a part-time job at the Courtyard Recreation and Dining Center.

In her spare time, she enjoys completing plastic canvas projects, collecting spoons and Coca-Cola products, and spending time with her husband Sgt. Shawn Ebey, who is assigned to Company B, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, and their daughter Ashlyn.

Staff Sgt. Eric Flores, who is assigned to Headquarters and Company A, 442nd Signal Battalion, is the Instructor of the Quarter. A native of Manalapan, N.J., he has served in the Army for 13 years, with three tours of duty in Germany and two tours in Texas.

He currently instructs students in the Enlisted Training Division at the School of Information Technology on a variety of subjects including information security, troubleshooting and repair, networking components and various software programs.

Since his tour began at Fort Gordon 18 months ago, Flores has successfully taught and mentored approximately 285 students.

In his off-duty time, he is striving to better himself by taking on-line classes through Grantham University, working towards his bachelor's degree in information systems.

He lists spending time with his wife Danijela and children, Ricardo and Angelina, as his number one hobby, followed by writing fiction and poetry and playing racquetball.

After he retires as a sergeant major, his plans are to retire a second time as at least a GS-13, while becoming a successful entrepreneur in the import/export business.



The Volunteer of the Month for September is Eva-Maria Proudfit, who has volunteered on Fort Gordon for the past 15 years. She currently volunteers with the Officers' Spouses' Club, Fisher House and Army Community Service.

With the OSC, she serves as treasurer, works at flea markets and serves on several committees. She has served as the special projects coordinator in support of the Fisher House for the Health Services Auxiliary.

With ACS, she is the chairperson of the Christmas House Application Committee, member of the Planning and Fund Raising Committees for the seventh year, as well as a special projects volunteer.

Credentialed as a lawyer in her native Germany, Proudfit volunteers her services to translate documents. Last year, after being contacted by ACS, she had her greatest challenge as a volunteer when she spent her entire summer meeting the needs of a young German woman who was hospitalized for four months in the Doctors Hospital burn unit as the result of an accident in Savannah in which her Soldier husband was killed. This included almost daily assistance to the young woman and her mother, who spoke no English, involving translation, transportation, various paperwork and other tasks.

Proudfit feels her greatest accomplishment was coming to the United States and adjusting to the "American way of life" and culture, which culminated last year in her becoming an American citizen. She is married to Larry Proudfit, who works in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

October is disability awareness month

Spc. Nicole Robus
Signal military editor

Soldiers gathered at the Courtyard Oct. 14 to hear how Willie Jones was able to overcome the loss of his sight.

It was a day to observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month's "You're hired! Success knows no limitations" program sponsored by the Advanced Noncommissioned Officers class for telecommunications operations chief 017-04.

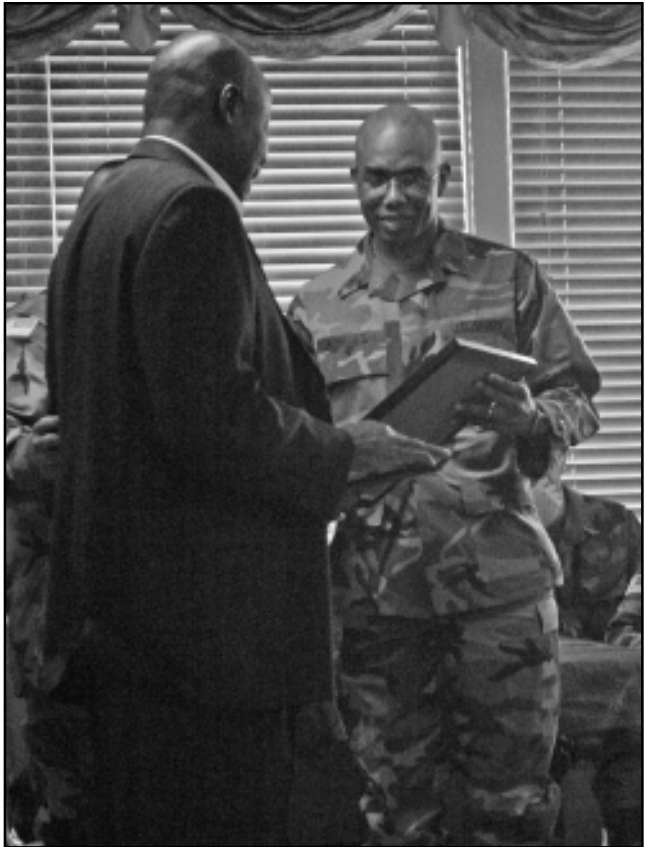


Photo by Spc. Nicole Robus

Staff Sgt. Porfirio Valdez presents a plaque to Willie Jones, thanking him for being the guest speaker at the National Disability Employment Awareness Month program held at the Courtyard Oct. 14.

The program started with a brief history given by Sgt. 1st Class William Rempfer.

Congress designated each October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

The Office of Disability Employment Policy has the lead in planning NDEAM activities and materials to increase the public's awareness of the contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities.

This effort to educate the American public about issues related to disability and employment actually began in 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week."

In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities.

In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

Various programs carried out throughout the month also highlight the specific employment barriers that still need to be addressed and removed.

Then Staff Sgt. Zane Jones introduced Jones to the audience.

"I have been blind for 30 years, and about to celebrate my 30 year wedding anniversary with my

wife," said Jones, who earned his G.E.D. in 1992.

"I lost my sight in 1974 when I was drinking and driving," said Jones. "I lost control of my vehicle beyond the bridge coming into gate 1 of Fort Gordon.

"My face went right through the windshield of my car.

"My friends told me that when the ambulance arrived to the scene I was semi-dead. I had swallowed my own blood," said Jones. "The medics had to bring me back to life."

Jones was in the hospital for three weeks following the accident.

"After the accident I had to make adjustments in my life to live as a blind person," he said. "I went through the feelings of anger, bitterness and resentment."

Jones attended vocational rehabilitation, which is where he met his wife. At the time there were no independent living facilities, he said.

Jones had many different jobs leading up to his current job at Walton Options for Independent Living.

Jones asked the group "have you ever seen a blind man looking for a job?" as the group laughed aloud.

"I worked at a county courthouse for five years; was a shoe salesman, and sold the Augusta Chronicle," said Jones.

Jones is currently a peer supporter, a computer trainer and a coordinator at Walton Options.

"I teach Braille at the moment, but if I have the time I want to learn how to build websites," said Jones.

Jones wants to continue to work with those who have disabilities. He plans on going to Africa Dec. 2-17.

"There are some people there that are blind. I want to help them. I believe that this is where the Lord (has led) me to," said Jones.

(Some information for this story came from U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy website.)

New retirement services officer arrives

Pfc. Armando Monroig
Signal staff

The Retirement Services Office on Fort Gordon has a new retirement services officer at Darling Hall.

Hillary Boyce, a veteran of active military service in the Army and the North Carolina National Guard, has been serving the military community at Fort Gordon for the past two years as the transition center chief.

Boyce separated from the military in September 2001 and has since been serving Soldiers and their family members in various ways, some of which include serving as a transition services specialist in Europe.

"I am very excited and welcome the opportunity to serve this community," Boyce said, "and would like to let all retirees and their spouses know that I am committed to serving their needs to the best of my ability."

She encourages retirees and

their spouses to visit, call her office, or e-mail her with any concerns and questions they may have.

Boyce said she will continue to post the monthly retiree newsletter to the retiree's web site and will also e-mail the newsletter to those retirees who have provided addresses.

Through the newsletter she keeps retirees informed on topics such as Tricare, dental changes, and new cost-of-living-adjustments for the

upcoming years.

"I am here to service the retirees in any pay changes that need to be made to their retiree pay account with DFAS, Survivor Benefits, and any other needs of the retirees," she said.

See RSO, page 10



Photo by Pfc. Armando Monroig

Hillary Boyce, Retirement Services Officer, assists Arlie Deaton, retired Army major, with information on the new combat related special compensation bill. The Retirement Services Office is located at Darling Hall, Room 237.

There's a new Chaplain at Family Life Center

Spc. Nicole Robus
Signal military editor

The Family Life Center has a new chaplain in charge, Chaplain (Maj.) Harvey Hennington.

Hennington comes to Fort Gordon from the 26th Area Support Group in Heidelberg, Germany, where he was the director of the Heidelberg Chaplain Family Life Center. With that he brings his knowledge to the current counseling program as the installation family life chaplain at the Family Life Center.

The FLC is a place devoted to religiously oriented counseling services. The Secretary of the Army felt that there was a significant enough need in the Army community to warrant setting aside chaplaincy manpower and installation assets devoted to spiritually oriented counseling and training for ID card holders.

Hennington is letting the chaplains on post know that the family life center is once again open for business.

"I have met many of the other helping professionals in the community and invited their referrals," said Hennington.

The family life center provides counseling on a wide variety of subjects, such as personal enrichment, marriage, whole family, death of a loved one and more.

The preventive side addresses married or engaged

couples through an assortment of programs, including couple counseling.

Couple counseling allows the counselor to specifically tailor the process to the individual couple. Programs offered in a group format are along the lines of the integral part of "Building Strong and Ready Families."

"When working with couples or individuals, I will often provide books or pamphlets that address target areas," said Hennington.

"I suppose the most often request for individual counseling services is from stressed-out Soldiers who are dealing with the normal pressures of life coupled with the ever increasing demands of the Army. I have a number of resources available for Soldiers," added Hennington.

"We are also here as the subject matter experts to help train other chaplains in counseling and the counseling process," he said.

When Soldiers are dealing with any kind of significant emotional event, one of the first stops that commanders usually use is to send them to the unit chaplain.

One of the recommendations of our supervisors at the Family Life Course was getting counseling yourself.

"I think that this experience provided me with not only some valuable growth, but also helped me to be more empathetic toward those who have never before availed

themselves of counseling," said Hennington.

"When I first went to counseling, I was very conscious of anyone that I knew seeing me," said Hennington. "I didn't trust the counselor until about the third session. I had a lot of fear about what we might uncover. After going through the process myself, I would highly recommend the experience to anyone that has an area of feelings that they find difficulty dealing with."

Religious education is more devoted to helping people on their spiritual journey, to grow in the depth of their faith as is also true about weekly chapel services.

Even though the FLC is operated by the chaplaincy, it is not a place where a person gets religion thrust upon them. Rather, it is a resource available for those that desire a more holistic approach to counseling that addresses not only the physiological and mental aspects of the person, but also appreciates the spirit of the individual.

"I really enjoy being a part of the healing process that happens when Soldiers and family members are able to work through old hurts with others. We are often even able to work through things that occurred with a family member or close friend that is no longer available," said Hennington.

"Often times we get emotionally stuck in places in

our relationships where significant trauma has occurred. The trauma may even be more devastating when it is emotional rather than physical. This 'stuckness' prevents us from being able to react to that individual, or even to others, in a way that would produce a healthy environment for good relationships to exist," said Hennington.

"I often times will explain it like scar tissue. Sometimes scar tissue gets in the way of normal function or is continually painful. In order to correct the problem surgery may be performed to remove the offending scar tissue. That is kind of what we do, work to reduce or remove the scar tissue so that normal function can happen," he said.

"Often, I have felt the guidance of my God in the counseling room. Things that I would never have thought of in the secular context often are keys to helping resolve the issues that counselees are dealing with. I have learned through experience to trust this guidance to the benefit to those involved in the process," said Hennington.

Hennington said Soldiers looking for help should start with their unit chaplain. Depending on the circumstances, the unit chaplain may then refer them to Hennington at the FLC.

To set up an appointment call 791-7421/7404/9433.



Photo by Sgt. Dan Purcell

Medic!

Sgt. Karl Kligel bandages a wounded Iraqi National Guardsman's leg following a mortar attack on an Iraqi patrol base north of Baghdad Oct. 19. Kligel is assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, 39th Brigade Combat Team.

An alternative to trick-or-treating

Fort Gordon's post-wide Protestant Sunday School and the post chapel congregations are offering an alternative for children whose parents want to avoid trick-or-treating and some of the other traditional Halloween activities.

Called "Hallelujah night," the event will be held from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 29 in Gym 4 on Barnes Avenue, for children four through 11 years of age.

For more information see page 5.



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jeremy Wood

Soldiers take time to greet children

A U.S. Soldier of the 1st Cavalry Division's Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, takes time to shake hands and talk with young Iraqi boys, while patrolling in the area of Thawra, Iraq, Oct. 7.

Advisors say understanding Ramadan important for Soldiers

Spc. Andy Miller
Army News Service

CAMPAL-TAHREER, Iraq – Based on the lunar calendar, the annual Muslim holy month of Ramadan began about Oct. 16, depending on when astronomers first sighted the new moon. Because of this, Ramadan begins at slightly different times, depending on location.

For more than a billion Muslims around the world, Ramadan is observed as a "month of blessing," marked by prayer, fasting and charity. Islamic history proclaims Ramadan as the month when Allah revealed the first verses of the Qu'ran, the holy book of Islam, to Muslim's highest prophet, Muhammad, in 610 A.D.

Recitations, fasting and charity are encouraged during this time as spiritual activities that can bring a Muslim follower closer to Allah.

"It helps them achieve or come to know piety, and basically show their understanding, or appreciation for those who have less than they have," said Capt. Ray Buenteo, a civil affairs planner with Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division.

Buenteo said it is important for Soldiers and other Westerners in Iraq to gain an understanding of Ramadan and other aspects of Muslim religion if they want to understand Middle Eastern culture. Religion has a prominent influence on Middle Eastern culture. More than what many are accustomed to in Western culture, he said.

"In Muslim society...everything you do in your day is guided by the Islamic religion," Buenteo said. "In order to understand the culture in the Middle East, or particularly in Iraq, you have to understand some aspects of their religion."

"Having an understanding for it, doesn't necessarily mean you have to agree to it. It helps you do your job. It's building relationships, and you can't build a relationship in this country unless you understand the people," he added.

Cpl. Michael Quintana, a 1st Cavalry Division chaplain's

assistant, is in Iraq for his second tour and will experience Ramadan for the third consecutive year. For him, understanding the local culture goes hand in hand with showing respect for the local people.

"It's a respect thing as a Soldier," Quintana said. "For example if somebody doesn't celebrate Christmas, it's still important to respect somebody that does. It's the same thing."

According to cultural advisor John Houston, who lived in Muslim Egypt for 16 years, Muslims will likely take less offense from non-Muslims visiting the Middle East who show respect toward their religion. This can mean observing local customs regarding dress, and showing sensitivity toward Muslims who are fasting.

While fasting, the Muslim practitioners will not allow anything, including cigarettes and liquids, to pass their lips. The fast lasts from dawn to dusk every day during the month of Ramadan.

"If you have something to eat, try to do it as privately as possible and keep in mind the fact that people around you are very likely fasting," Houston said. "Its appreciated when you show some respect for what they're doing by not eating while they're fasting."

Houston added that during the month, religion plays a more prominent than usual role in Muslim life. He thinks this could heighten an awareness of political issues that are seen in Muslim culture as aggression against their religion. The Israeli-Palestine conflict, the Multi-National Force presence in Iraq, and what some Muslims perceive as the invasion of Western culture, will likely come to the forefront of Muslim thought during this time, he said.

"During Ramadan, people's ideas turn more toward religion, more than they do during the rest of the year," Houston said. "So people are more prone to being influenced by preachers and what they say. The political conflicts that may be thought to involve religion take a more prominent place in people's thinking."

(Miller is a member of the 122nd MPAD in Iraq.)

Global posture part and parcel of transformation

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—The global posture of American troops is part and parcel of the transformation of the U.S. military, said the Joint Staff’s deputy director for strategy and policy.

Navy Rear Adm. Richard Hunt said a global readjustment of American forces is overdue and, with other changes, will increase U.S. military capabilities with fewer forces.

The global posture changes will allow the president to reposition forces more quickly, and this could allow the forces to deter problems before they escalate to conflict or to stomp out small conflicts before they grow, Hunt said.

Global posture is transformational, Hunt said. “It goes hand in hand with other transformation areas we’re working,” he said. “In the past, we’ve developed war plans, put them on the shelf, and dusted them off when we needed to execute them.

“We’re beyond that,” he continued. “The environment

we have to operate in is just too quick.”

American forces are moving around the world. U.S. forces in South Korea will drop by 12,500 personnel over the next three years. Those forces have been in some of the same positions in Korea since the armistice was signed in 1953.

“In the meantime, the Republic of Korea has grown economically and matured politically,” Hunt said. The Korean military has grown, become more professional and has many world-class capabilities. Further, the country has a well-integrated command-and-control network with U.S. forces in Korea.

“The U.S. contribution in Korea comes less from troop numbers than from better intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance,” Hunt said. The United States will invest more than \$11 billion over the next few years to improve these capabilities.

The other piece to global posture in Korea is the consolidation of forces into better locations. Hunt said U.S. forces must get out of areas that are

now overly congested. “We don’t want to be stepping all over our host nations,” he said. “We want to exist in a very non-intrusive way.”

Fifty years ago, these areas were in the middle of nothing. U.S. forces could train right outside the gates. Now, apartment complexes, industrial parks or other developments surround many of the bases. Consolidating forces further south will allow the troops that remain in Korea improved access to training areas. It will improve their mobility and will simplify the force-protection equation, Hunt said.

“This improves the overall combat effectiveness,” Hunt said. “The lower (U.S.) numbers do not diminish the ability to accomplish the mission. In fact, U.S. capabilities are enhanced.”

American forces permanently based in Europe will drop from about 100,000 to around 50,000. U.S. European Command officials said the tentative plan is for the two heavy divisions in Europe to return to the United States. In their place will be a Stryker

brigade in Germany, a light infantry brigade in Italy, and another light brigade “in Eastern Europe,” officials said.

Hunt said the key to a U.S. posture shift in Europe is that it is being done in close collaboration with allies. “We are working closely with our allies,” Hunt said. “They understand what we are doing and why.”

Many NATO allies are going through the same restructuring process, he said. There is no need for a defensive posture in Europe in the traditional sense. “We have succeeded over last 60 years,” he said. “Now we need to apply those kind of forces to other regions.”

Hunt said the global posture picture will constantly change in the future. “If someone were to ask me what the global posture will be over the next decade, my answer is ‘I don’t know,’” he said. “We cannot predict where threat will be. The whole global posture effort ... will provide the military with the opportunity to be more dynamic.”

RSO

From page 7

In addition to serving the retiree population, Boyce’s daily customer service operations include providing service to widows or widowers, and assisting them in building a survival benefit plan, payments they receive, directing VA options – all benefits that would affect a retiree, widow or widower.

“I am the person to contact to make any changes to their military retiree pay account,” said Boyce, including changing beneficiary or allotments.

She said retirees don’t have a finance center like active duty servicemembers, so they can go to the retirement services office for some of these services.

Many of the retirees going to her office recently have done so inquiring about

the new combat related special compensation bill that was passed that allows veterans who have disabilities stemming from injuries suffered during combat exercises or training, to get more money.

“It’s a pretty complicated application, which some of the... retirees aren’t able to do on their own,” said Boyce, adding that she assists filling it out with them.

She works with retirees ranging from those who served in Vietnam to the more recent war in Iraq.

Many retirees, Boyce said, need help in locating lost retiring orders or service records, just one of the many things she helps with.

Retirement Appreciation Day activities, held bi-yearly on Fort Gordon, are

coordinated through the RSO and Boyce helps manage the retiree council meetings as well.

The Fort Gordon Retiree Council is made up of 20 elected retirees that come together to express their concerns and ideas. Boyce said they are currently looking for new members.

Boyce said many retirees aren’t aware there is someone on post that can help them and answer questions they might have.

“I am here for them to assist them with any need,” said Boyce.

Her office is located at Darling Hall, Building 33720, Room 237 and can be reached by phone at 791-2654, or by e-mail at **boyceh@gordon.army.mil**.

Army volunteers get kids back to school after hurricane

Shannon Bauer

Army News Service

PENSACOLA, Fla. – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers volunteers set up temporary facilities so that Pensacola school children could return to class after Hurricane Ivan struck.

Ivan completely destroyed Pensacola Beach Elementary Charter School, as well as 22 classrooms at Workman Middle School and 10 classrooms at Pensacola High School. The Corps’ team Pensacola Emergency Response and Recovery Office acquired, delivered and set up 36 mobile homes for the Escambia County school district to use as temporary classrooms two weeks after receiving the task.

Scott Jutila, engineer for the project, said it took a huge cooperative effort between the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the CoE, the school district and the contractors to complete the project that quickly. “Everyone knew it was important to get the kids back to school, so they knew it was a priority,” he said.

The team received the assignment Sept. 29 and had trailers arriving by Oct. 2. They arrived in modules and had to be pieced together, as well as connected to utilities, cleaned up, and, in some cases, repaired. Jutila said one fell off the delivery truck on its way and had to have a new ceiling and light fixtures installed.

“Assisting the school district with the modular classroom units was an exciting, new chal-



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Pensacola Beach Elementary principal Jeff Castleberry assists a second-grade class in presenting thank you cards to Corps of Engineers personnel for putting up a temporary school. The cards were hand-drawn by the second graders. Corps’ people pictured include Duane Wilson, Scott Jutila and Eric Wittine.

lenge for the temporary housing team,” said Eric Wittine, quality supervisor on the project.

“To bring in the units... and have students in class in a two-week time period was a remarkable accomplishment. It was great to see the smiles on the kids’ faces,” added Wittine.

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush visited the Pensacola Beach School Oct. 13 to thank the Corps and its partners for getting the school up and running in such a timely manner.

Community Events

PBO closed

The Training Support Center Property Book Office is closed **Monday to Friday** to allow employees to attend training. The PBO will resume normal operating hours Nov. 1.

For information call Patricia Vandiver at 791-4195/7241

Native American heritage program

The installation observes Native American heritage month **Nov. 1** at 1:30 p.m. in Alexander Hall, with Lucian Lamar Sneed as the guest speaker. Sneed is the executive director of the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee.

Sneed is acknowledged as one of the top historians on southeastern Indian culture, with special interest in the Cherokee Indians. He served six years of active duty with the regular Army and 21 years with the Georgia Army National Guard.

The program is free and open to the public. For information, call 791-2014.

Spending account enrollment

The Federal Flexible Spending Account Program open season begins **Nov. 8** and runs through **Dec. 13**.

Unlike FEHB enrollments, enrollment in FSAFEDS does not carry over from year to year. Employees wishing to join or continue in FSAFEDS for 2005 must enroll in the program.

For more information, go to <http://www.FSAFEDS.com>.

Health benefits

The Health Benefit Plan selection period is **now** through **Nov. 12** for NAF employees. The next open season is in fall 2005.

For more information go to <http://www.gordon.army.mil/dhr/NAF/open%20Season%202004%20Brochure.doc>

Trick or treat hours

Fort Gordon Trick or Treat hours are 6-8 p.m. **Oct. 29**. MPs will block the following roads beginning at 5 p.m.:

- Gordon Terrace: Brainard Avenue and 47th Street.
- McNair Terrace: Garlington Drive.
- Olive Terrace: North Range Road and Lilac Court, and 45th and Third avenues.
- Maglin Terrace: Maglin and Myer drives.

No one will be allowed to enter the housing areas after the roads are blocked. Walking patrols will be in Gordon, McNair and Olive terraces.

Residents in the housing areas are encouraged to leave their porch lights on even if not handing out candy to help with safety.

FEHB open season

The Open Season for federal employees to make health benefit changes is **Nov. 8 to Dec. 13**.

For information, go to <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/qa/index.asp>.

Fall carnival

New Life Christian Center presents its sixth annual free fall carnival from 3-7 p.m. **Oct. 30** at 3336 Wrightsboro Rd.

There will be free games, a funtown, prizes, a rock wall, children's inflatable rides and entertainment. Free soft drink, hot dog and snack provided. Call 738-2526 for more information.

Tops in Blue

The U.S. Air Force's Tops in Blue offers a night of family entertainment at Alexander Hall at 7 p.m. **Nov. 10**.

Tops in Blue is a high-energy variety show similar to the Army's Soldier Show.

Admission is free; seating is limited, plan to arrive one hour before the show.

Craft fair

The Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is having a craft fair from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **Nov. 6** at 402 Aumond Rd. For information, call 733-6076.

Free tutoring

The Augusta State University Literacy Center offers free tutoring from 4-8 p.m. **Monday** through **Fridays** (closed Wednesdays).

One-on-one tutoring is available for all ages under the supervision of a certified teacher. Call 733-7043 for information.

Dinner theatre

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre presents "Caught in the Net," a comedy by Ray Cooney.

The show plays **Nov. 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, 19** and **20**; dinner at 7 p.m., the show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$33; seniors, retirees, DA civilians and E-8 and above \$31; E-7 and below \$21; show only \$16.

For information, go to www.fortgordon.com or call 793-8552.

Sunday brunch

The Gordon Club offers Sunday brunch from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. weekly.

Cost is \$12 for adults; \$7 ages 5-9; \$3 ages 2-4. Call 791-6780 for information.

Dog show

Molly's "Nutts About Mutts" Dog Show is 10 a.m.-4 p.m. **Oct. 30**, at Harrison-Caver Park in Clearwater, S.C.

Proceeds go to saving the lives of dogs and cats in animal shelters.

Contests include longest tail, best trick, largest and smallest dog, and more.

Prizes awarded in all categories. Admission is \$3 for adults, kids 12 and under free. Contest fees are \$10 per contest, three for \$25 or six for \$40.

For information call 2nd Lt. Mario Rosario at 791-6449.

Fun run

The U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Association Fort Gordon Chapter is having its annual 5K run/walk at 9 a.m.



Photo by Marla Greene

Be mine

Valentino is affectionate, adorable and available for immediate adoption at the Fort Gordon Veterinary Treatment Facility. Adoption cost for him and others is \$60 and includes microchip, spay or neuter and vaccinations. For more information, call 787-3815 or come see them from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday, at 500 North Range Rd.

Nov. 6 starting at Hazen Hall.

For information e-mail usaoca@yahoo.com.

Houses wanted

The Officers' Spouses' Club, in conjunction with the Fort Gordon Community, presents "The Fort Gordon Tour of Homes" from 1-4 p.m. **Nov. 14**.

Volunteers from all housing areas are needed to open their homes for this event.

For information call Gail Fitzpatrick at 651-8933.

Yard sale

The Fort Gordon yard sale, sponsored by the Directorate of Morale Welfare and Recreation, is 8 a.m.-noon **Saturday**.

This is one of the two times each year on-post residents may hold a yard sale; all housing areas are included.

For information, call Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Swain Jr. at 791-3702.

Symposium registration

The U.S. Army Signal Center and the Augusta, Fort Gordon Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association host the Signal Regimental Symposium from **Nov. 29 to Dec. 3**.

The theme is "LandWarNet – Networking the Force in the Joint Fight."

Registration for the Symposium is now being accepted. Online registration is available until **Nov. 19**.

This year there is no charge or badge requirement for local registrants; however those planning to attend sessions during the Symposium must register on the Fort Gordon webpage at www.gordon.army.mil/symposium/2004.

Local registrants may pay the full registration fee and receive a badge for full Symposium access.

Contractors working on Fort Gordon who plan to attend the Symposium workshops, general sessions and exhibit hall grand opening must pay the \$75 registration fee by Nov. 8 or \$100 after Nov. 8.

All those who pay and register online will receive their badges in the mail.

Family fun day

Mistletoe State Park is having a Family Fall Fest from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Saturday**.

Activities include live bands, a hayride, pumpkin scavenger hunt, roasting marshmallows, apple bobbing, storyteller and a night hike.

Activities are free to registered guests and \$5 per car-load for daily park visitors. For information call 541-0321.

Family child care homes off post

The Fort Gordon Family Child Care Program is currently seeking qualified active duty and retired military spouses to provide off post child care.

For more information contact the FCC office at 791-3993 or 791-4440.

Girl Scout news

Girl Scout troops are organizing now in the CSRA for girls 5-11 and STUDIO 2B groups are organizing for girls 11-17.

For membership information, call Girl Scouts, Central Savannah River Council at 774-0505 or (800) 997-2472.

If you are 18 or older and would like to volunteer, call the Girl Scouts at 774-0505.

Separating servicemembers

If you are within one year of separating or two years of projected retirement from the military, contact the Army Career and Alumni Program.

All servicemembers leaving active duty, with more than 180 days of active service, must receive the congressionally mandated pre-separation counseling.

This counseling, which must take place no later than 90 days prior to separation, covers available transi-

tion assistance services, rights and benefits.

To schedule an appointment, call 791-7333. Additional information can be found at www.gordon.army.mil/dhr/ACAP/acap.htm.

Story hour

Woodworth Library is having a Pre-school Story Hour from 11 a.m.-noon each **Wednesday**.

Story hour features a series of fun and encouraging educational activities for children ages 2-5.

Volunteers are welcome. For information, contact Joyce Daniels or Jean Ballejo at 791-7323.

Orientation

A newcomer orientation is held **Tuesdays** and **Fridays** at 1 p.m. in Room 367, Darling Hall. For more information call 791-3579.

Bariatric support group

The Bariatric Support Group meets at 6:30 p.m. the **second Tuesday** of each month at Eisenhower Army Medical Center in the hospital auditorium on the first floor; the meeting begins at 7 p.m.

The group is open to pre-op and post-op patients, and anyone interested in learning about the surgery.

Call Florrie Cox at 595-8330 for information.

At the Movies

The Signal Theater is open Thursday-Sunday. Shows begin at 6:30 p.m. Children 12 and over and all adults are \$3. Children 6-11 are \$1.50. Children under 5 are free.

For movie listings and times, call 791-3982.

Oct. 22-28
Friday - Paparazzi (PG-13)
Saturday - Cellular (PG-13)
Sunday - Napoleon Dynamite (PG-13)
Thursday - Cellular (PG-13)

Note: Attendance at Fort Gordon's movie theater is strictly limited to authorized Post Exchange patrons.

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Aerobics

Step Aerobic classes are available at Gym 6 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 5-6 p.m.

Classes also available Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m.

Nautilus and PT Aerobics classes are available upon request. For more information call 791-6099 or go to www.FortGordon.com.

Permits

The Hunting and Fishing Permit office has moved from Ring Hall to the Tactical Advantage Sportsman's Complex on Carter Road (past the Gordon Lakes Golf Course on the right). Hours for selling permits are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday - Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

Outdoor Recreation

The Army's Clark Hill Recreation Area offers camping, water skiing, fishing, hiking, biking and more.

Located just 25 miles from Fort Gordon, the area is open to all ID card holders. For information, call 541-1057.

Fall carnival

New Life Christian Center present its sixth annual free fall carnival from 3-7 p.m. **Oct. 30** at 3336 Wrightsboro Rd.

There will be free games, a funtown, prizes, a rock wall, children's inflatable rides and more. Call 738-2526 for information.

Fun run

The U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Association Fort Gordon Chapter is having its annual 5K run/walk at 9 a.m. **Nov. 6** starting at Hazen Hall.

For information e-mail usaoca@yahoo.com.

Family fun day

Mistletoe State Park is having a Family Fall Fest from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Saturday.** Activities include live bands, a hayride, pumpkin scavenger hunt, roasting marshmallows, apple bobbing, storyteller and a night hike.

Activities are free to registered guests and \$5 per car-load for daily park visitors. For information call 541-0321.

Race

The 1st Living Light Village River Run will be held **Oct. 30** at the Savannah Rapids Pavilion in Martinez along the Augusta Canal.

Events include an 8K race, two-mile race, one-mile race, and 100-yard Tot Trot. Race day registration is from 7 to 8 a.m.

Awards will be given for each race, with prize drawings.

For more information, call 284-2879 or e-mail rgaines002@comcast.net

Tops in Blue

The U.S. Air Force's Tops in Blue offers a night of family entertainment at Alexander Hall at 7 p.m. **Nov. 10.**

Tops in Blue is a high-energy variety show similar to the Army's Soldier Show.

Admission is free; seating is limited, plan to arrive one hour before the show.

NHRA championship goes to Army team

Sgt. 1st Class Antony Joseph
Army News Service

READING, Pa. — Drag racing superstar and U. S. Army car driver Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher swept aside all challengers to win the National Hot Rod Association Top Fuel Championship Nov. 10 at the Maple Grove Raceway in Reading.

Adding to the successful day for the Army team were NHRA Pro Stock Bike Racers Angelle Savoie and Antron Brown and who managed to finish one and two respectively in their event.

During qualifying, Brown set a track record of 7.05 seconds, which was beaten by Savoie during the final stages when she set a time of 7.03 seconds, .02 seconds outside the world record.

Although Schumacher only managed to qualify in fourth place, he was able to see off his closest challenger, Doug Kallita, in the quarterfinals stage. Kallita, who qualified in first place, was not able to maintain his form on race day under intense pressure from Schumacher.

The Sarge went into this makeup event (original race cancelled due to Hurricane Ivan) in first place in the standings, 4 points ahead of Kallita.

Though Kallita had a mathematical chance of overhauling Schumacher's lead, it was the Army driver's race to lose.

Before the race Mike Lewis, executive vice president of the race team, said "Tony would basically have to stay at home and Doug win all his races for there to



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Antony M.C. Joseph

Training and Doctrine Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. Anthony R. Jones shares Tony Schumacher's moment of triumph after clinching the Top Fuel Championship at the Maple Grove Raceway in Reading, Pa.

be a change at the top of the standings."

Schumacher, jubilant after clinching the championship, correlated his team's efforts to those of the Army where

teamwork is key to success, "the win was a culmination of the teams dedication to duty. Just like soldiers, who this team is very proud to represent, we work together to

achieve our goal, and the concerted effort is a key reason for us winning this championship.

The Army's successful Auto racing weekend was

capped off by Joe Nemechek winning the NASCAR Nextel Cup race ahead of the Air Force and the National Guard cars, which finished second and third respectively.

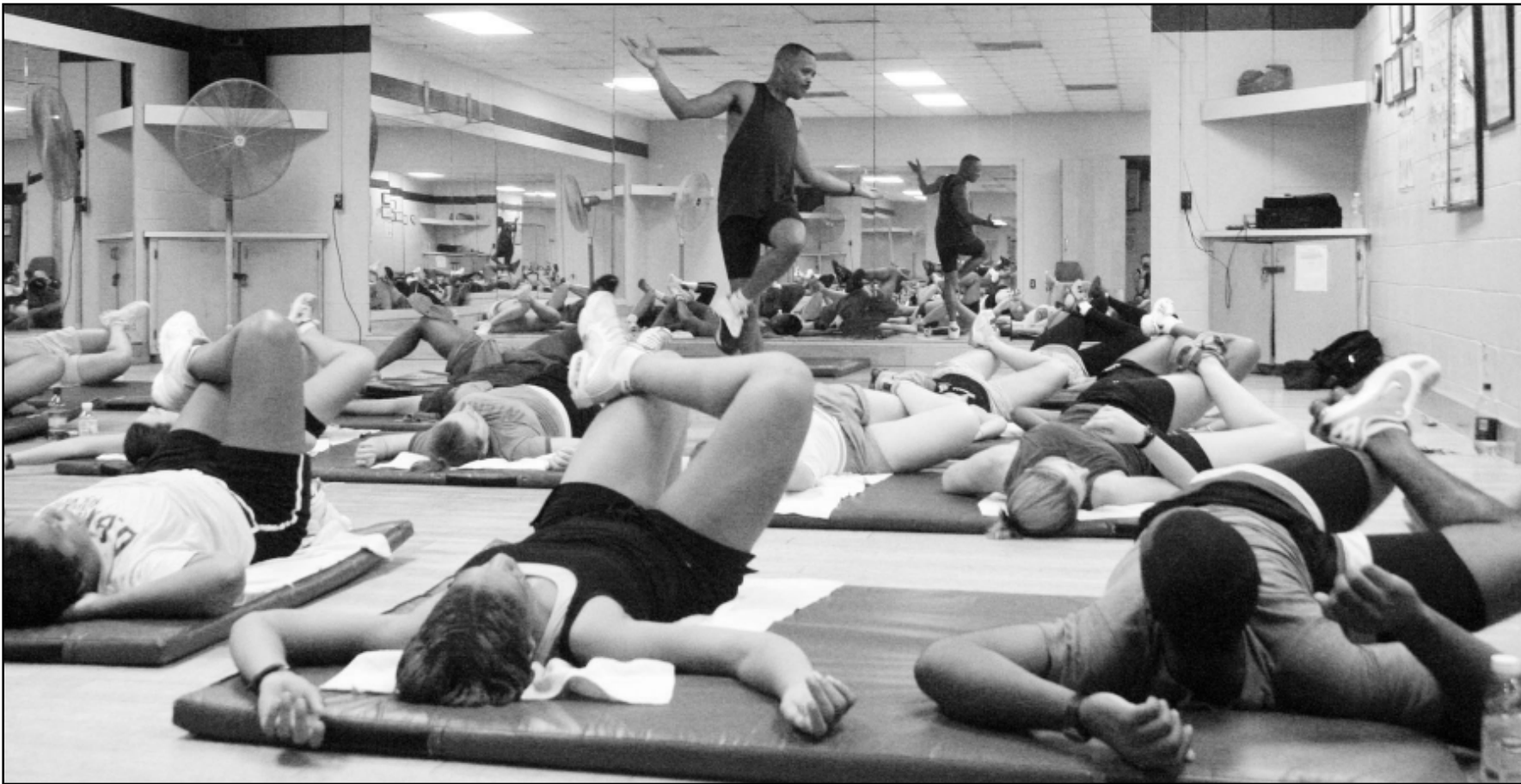


Photo by Pfc. Armando Monroig

Eight more seconds that is

Sgt. Maj. Charles Gilmore, HHC USAG, instructs aerobics participants during the cool-down portion of their workout at Gym 6 Oct. 12. Classes are held at Gym 6 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-7 p.m. and at Gym 3 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for unit physical training.

Airman wins golf crown

Capt. Robert Bader
31st Intelligence Squadron

Senior Airman Jason Nichols, a cryptologic Hebrew linguist assigned to the 31st Intelligence Squadron here, became the new Gordon Lakes Golf Club Championship winner as he recorded rounds of 77 and 75 at Gordon Lakes Golf Club Sept. 25-26.

On Sept. 25, 30 golfers teed off in the championship flight trying to become the next club champion.

To do so required knocking

off the previous four-time champ Joe Shiver, a retired airman.

At the end of the first round in blustery conditions, Shiver led by one over Nichols with 76 and 77 respectively, followed by the next player at 81 and the rest of the pack at five strokes or more back.

On Sept. 26 Shiver and Nichols teed off in the last group on another blustery day. Shiver started steady, recording par on the first four holes while Nichols was a little shaky at the start, making scrambling

bogeys on the second and fourth holes.

After Shiver bogeyed the fifth hole and Nichols made par, Nichols showed his grit by knocking a 220-yard, three-iron into a 20 mph wind to within 15 feet of the cup on the par three sixth, that he birdied.

He followed that with another 20 footer for birdie on the par five seventh hole. Shiver answered with par on the sixth and seventh.

After the front nine the field had dropped back and the tournament was now between Nichols and Shiver. Both played solidly on 10 and 11.

On the par five 12th, Shiver

rolled in a 30-foot bender for birdie to tie Nichols, who missed a 15-foot eagle putt. Nichols then picked up strokes on 13, 14 and 15 with par, birdie, par.

Three strokes up with three holes to play, Nichols ran into trouble off the tee on the par five 16th. Struggling to make bogey, Nichols was one up with two to play after Shiver birdied.

The drivable 354-yard par four 17th dogleg right, fairway sloping right, with water along the entire right side left Shiver with a high risk-reward choice.

Taking little time to decide, Shiver pulled a driver from his

bag. Going for the green, he hit a nice fade that landed short of the corner, kicked right and went into the water.

Nichols later said, "I was relieved to see the ball in the water."

"It would have been a great shot, difficult to match under pressure."

Laying up with an iron off the tee, Nichols parred 17 as Shiver made bogey.

With a two stroke lead, Nichols hit his drive 350 yards on the par four 18th, proclaiming the match all but over; finishing two up over the four-time champion with a final total of 75.

Translator pays high cost of freedom

Marine Cpl. Veronika Tuskowski
Special to American Forces Press Service

ANBAR PROVINCE, Iraq – Sally’s children were taken away from her more than six months ago. Her husband beat her. Her brother threatened her life while holding a gun to her head. Her own father contracted her death with a \$5,000 reward.

Sally, an Iraqi translator working with Multinational Force Iraq, lost everything by working to help Americans rebuild Iraq. Still, she feels her service with Americans is the right thing for her country.

“I lost everything I have, but I have gained so much,” Sally said. “If I had to do it over again I would. I help the Americans, help my people.”

Sally masks her real identity. She agreed to be interviewed on the condition her location and identity remained hidden. She is still a wanted woman with a price on her head.

Sally, 28, was born in Baghdad to a wealthy family. Her Turkish Christian mother died giving birth to her. Her Muslim father from Fallujah had ties in Iraqi oil. She wanted for little as a child, even under the repressive regime of Saddam Hussein.

Her father had another wife who raised Sally as her own child.

She was educated at a private Catholic school from the age of 5 until she was 12, learning English and several other languages. She grew up with a cross- cultural experience unknown to most Iraqis.

“Since my mother was Christian and my father was Muslim, I studied the Bible during the week and went the Mosque every Friday to study the Quran,” Sally explained.

Still, there was a parochial and detached feeling to her formative years. She visited her family on the weekends and one month of the

year. When she did visit her family, Sally explained that women had little power and could not make any choices of her own.

“My father. ... I can’t even eat at the same table and eat with him,” she said. “I must always say yes to everything.”

The day she graduated from her Catholic school, her father told her something that would change her life. “I was 13 years old,” Sally said. “I will never forget this. ... He sits beside me and says, ‘Honey, you must marry.’” Three days later, she was married to her father’s friend, 27 years her senior. “He wasn’t mean at first, and he wasn’t nice,” she said. “He looked like my father.”

She gave birth to her first son at 14 and continued studying engineering in Baghdad. Her family grew over the years to include three more children. It was a life not unlike that of many Iraqi women.

“I liked my husband, because he let me go to school,” she said. “I was a child. I didn’t know any better. All my life I was with one guy, and I didn’t know if he was good, I didn’t know if he was bad. He was the only thing I knew. He taught me what to think.”

Sally’s family did not like Americans, and when rumors of a war began circulating last year, her family decided to leave for Turkey. Still, Sally stayed. “I love my home,” she explained. “I told them I would never leave, and they left without me.”

Early one morning when the war started, she heard yelling outside her home. Americans in a Humvee were talking to one of her neighbors.

“They were speaking English and trying to talk to a man,” she said.

“They were going to arrest him. So I went outside to help him and talked to the Americans for the man. The Americans were very appreciative and (offered me) a job. I told them they know where I live if they

ever need my help.”

She thought being a translator would be a great way to help out her country. She took an English test and was accepted to become a translator.

Sally’s decision, though, was unpopular with her Iraqi neighbors.

“My neighbors found out that I was helping the Americans, and they beat my children,” she said. “They threw rocks at my daughter and broke both arms on my son. They told me to watch out or I will be killed.”

It wasn’t just her neighbors who harbored hatred for Sally’s assistance to the coalition. Her family was infuriated.

“When my family came home from Turkey and found out, they told me that I would be killed,” she said. “They called me horrible names like ‘bitch’ and ‘whore.’ My brother put a pistol to my head and threatened to kill me.”

She lived only



Photos by Marine Cpl. Veronika Tuskowski

Sally, serving as a translator for multinational forces in Iraq, holds up a coin she received from the commander of the unit she serves. The 28-year-old was born in Baghdad and has been working with the coalition since last year. Her family has placed a \$5,000 bounty on her head for cooperating with U.S. forces.

because her mother intervened. It wasn’t a measure of love, but rather of family honor.

“My mother stopped him by saying, ‘She is not your real sister, and it’s not your honor to kill her,’” she recalled. “She is not even my daughter; her real mother died when she was born.”

Sally fled her home and took residence with her husband and children in Baghdad’s Green Zone. She continued to help the Americans, translating at checkpoints. Her family began looking for her to kill her for betraying them.

“While I was at work, my brother found my husband and told him that I will kill your wife if I find out she is working with the coalition forces,” she said. “He lied for me and told them that I was not.”

Her life continued to crumble. She found her car missing and asked her husband if he knew what happened.

“I asked him about it, and he said someone stole it,” Sally said. “I could not believe it. I asked who would steal? The Americans? The Green Zone was such a safe neighborhood. There was nowhere for it to go.”

Her husband became enraged. He flew into a tirade.

“He messed up my face and body,” she said. “He had such an angry face.”

The next morning he apologized to her and told her to go to work because she was going to be late. Her face was beaten, black and blue. She tried to hide her husband’s crime with sunglasses and a hat. Her ruse didn’t work. Another translator saw the marks.

“I lied and said I did it to myself,” she said.

She then told him that her car was also stolen. Then her world fell apart.

“He said, ‘Your husband divorced you a month ago and took your car, your money and your apartment and gave it to your best friend because you are working with Americans,’” she recalled. “So I went back to my apartment and found my car in the garage and went inside.”

She found her best friend inside

with her husband.

“I was so angry I yelled,” she said. “I went crazy. I took my keys and took off.”

She drove to a nearby restaurant and parked thinking about what just happened.

“I was sitting there in the parking lot and I saw him walking up to me,” she said. “I was relieved. I thought he was going to apologize. He told me to unroll the window.”

When she did, he picked up a nearby rock and repeatedly hit her face. She awoke in a hospital two days later. An Army captain arrested her husband, but she insisted on finding him.

“I saw him cry,” she said. “Iraqi men never cry. I was trying to get him out. I didn’t care what anyone said.”

She was warned to leave him in jail, that he would kill her. She insisted on his release.

“After 15 minutes of getting out the jail, he beat me up and put me in his car and took me to the apartment and locked me in the bathroom for three to four days with no food,” Sally said. “I begged for water. He said ‘No, I am ashamed of you. You are an interpreter, that’s why I divorced you.’”

Her husband threatened to tell her family where she was, sealing her death sentence.

She escaped only because of her oldest son.

“My older son, who is 13, opened the bathroom door and said, ‘Mom you need to run away,’” she recalled. “You cannot stay here. They will kill you. Mom, they will kill you!”

Sally said she did not want to leave her children behind.

“He pushed me out the door and I ran,” she said. “I don’t know where, but I ran.”

She left with nothing but the clothes she was wearing, a picture of her kids and a stuffed tiger her son slept with at night. It was the last time she saw her children.

She returned to work with coalition forces.

Master Sgt. Tim Curl remembers seeing her in the chow hall days after escaping.

“She was directed by her command to seek medical attention for her wounds,” Curl said. “But instead, she went to the chow hall. She got up to get something and all of a sudden she collapsed. The place went completely silent.”

She spent three weeks recovering in a hospital.

When she returned to work, she opened up an e-mail from her friend to find out there was a price on her head. A poster was being distributed: \$5,000 was offered for her, dead or alive. It was offered by her father.

“He is trying to pay my friends for information on where I am,” Sally said. “If I go to any Arab country, my father would find me.”

Still, she doesn’t fear the warrant.

“What can they take from me?” she asked. “I already have lost everything.”

Her commitment has earned praises from Marines.

“Sally risks her life to be here,” Curl said. “Many translators we have here have had their lives threatened and their families’ lives threatened. She goes on convoys, combat patrols, and they go through the same attacks we do.”

Sally understands the risk, but still continues to work with Americans because of her love for the job.

“I love my job, I am helping out my people,” she explained. “I am doing something for my country. This is the first time in my life I choose what I want in my life. My father would never let me choose. Now I am fighting for what I believe in.”

Her family now is the circle of Marines and Soldiers with whom she works.

“You (Soldiers and Marines) come from America to help my country,” Sally said. “I must help you help my people. I see these Soldiers that lose their lives for Iraqis. They come into our country and die for us. We must appreciate these guys. I appreciate the Army and Marines. I love them.”

(Tuskowski is assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.)



Sally holds onto the stuffed tiger that once belonged to her 5-year-old son. She has not seen her four children in eight months and does not know where they are. Sally serves as a translator for multinational forces in Iraq, which has caused her to be beaten and disavowed, and her life has been threatened by her own family. Every time the 28-year-old leaves for a mission, she brings this stuffed animal as a reminder of all she has lost and all she has gained since helping the coalition. She hopes to move to the United States and continue helping the military.

Raid nabs recruiter, mortar-team leader

Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns
Special to American Forces Press Service

CAMP TAJI, Iraq—A raid launched Monday by Company C, 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment of the Army's 39th Brigade Combat Team netted a suspected cell leader and recruiter for anti-Iraqi mortar teams in eastern Baghdad.

Company leaders claim the individual was the brains behind nearly 200 mortars targeting their 1.5-acre compound since the unit's arrival in Baghdad in April.

Platoon Sgt. Robert Fisher, 37, of Carlisle, Ark., said the man was difficult to find because he frequently moved to avoid capture. "He had several places he lived," said Fisher. "He didn't stay in one spot." The suspect was purported to have dwellings in Fallujah and the Baghdad neighborhoods of Damiya and Rusafa.

The Arkansas-based Company C has destroyed three mortar teams over the past several months. The individual captured on this mission is reportedly responsible for recruiting those and other teams from Fallujah.

"He was bringing other teams in from Fallujah in order to hit us simultaneously with mortars from two different locations," Fisher said. "He was the brain bringing them in and firing us up."

Upon searching the suspect's house, soldiers found a mortar tube, mortar plate and material used to create roadside improvised explosive devices. Next to mortar attacks, IEDs are one of the most common methods insurgents use to kill or injure American troops in Iraq.

Soldiers said the captured individual cooperated with officials, giving names and locations of mortar team members underneath him in hopes of an easier sentence. "We tell them that if they cooperate, it will make their sentence easier," Fisher said. "We tell them we're not here to hurt them."

The raiding party — on its fourth combat mission in two days — searched the house without resistance. Soldiers were in and out within 20 minutes, giving no time for a counterattack by insurgents.

"I do like to get the bad guy," Fisher said. Despite capturing a suspected cell leader, the Soldiers stopped short of claiming victory. "It was a relief to know we got the main cell leader, but there are still mortar teams out there in our sector," said Fisher. "The threat is still there."

(Bruns is assigned to the 39th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office.)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns

Sgt. Robert Fisher, 37, of Carlisle, Ark., sifts through bomb-making material found at a suspect's house during a raid launched Monday by Company C, 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment of the Army's 39th Brigade Combat Team in eastern Baghdad.

Tragedy leads 39th Brigade to weapons

1st Lt. Chris Heathscott
Army News Service

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — A firefight on the banks of the Tigris River Oct. 3 transformed a small patrol through Taji, Iraq, into a huge operation to seek out the individuals responsible for the deaths of two 39th Brigade Soldiers.

The men involved in the operation overcame emotion in order to successfully execute a plan, which ultimately gave birth to the discovery of a major weapons cache and apparent hub of terrorist activity.

"Essentially what they had set up was an (improvised explosive device) manufacturing facility," said Maj. Damon Cluck, operations officer of the 39th's 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery Regiment.

The unearthing produced 23 120-millimeter mortar rounds, a South African 155-millimeter round, and multiple detonation devices. Although representing only a small portion of the find, these are the ingredients to construct IEDs, some of which were already wired and ready for placement.

"That in itself made the cache significant in addition to the rockets and direct fire stuff that was found," said Cluck.

THREE CACHES FOUND
The plan for the operation, which resulted in the finding of a total of three caches, was conceived in response to an ambush, which killed two American Soldiers just hours earlier. The incident occurred during a joint patrol with Iraqi National Guard soldiers, along with Soldiers from the 39th's 206th Field Artillery Regiment Oct. 3.

The firefight took the lives of Staff Sgt. Christopher Potts, of Tiverton, R.I., and Sgt. Russell Collier, of Harrison, Ark. This led to the decision to

reorganize and go after those responsible by sealing off that area of Taji Village and searching 23 different homes and buildings inside.

JUSTICE SERVED
Building combat power seemed somewhat of an understatement as hundreds of Soldiers came together to seek out the shooters. As the leadership planned the operation, the potential for strong emotions driven by the loss of their fellow Soldiers became a concern.

"I didn't want them going in for revenge, but I wanted them to go in for justice," said Neary. "We kind of pounded

that into them during that 36 hours between the firefight and the mission, so that they knew we were going in there looking to find the folks that were responsible, not just looking to find anybody that was there to hold them accountable."

"You've got to give kudos to the battalion staff of the 206th," said Staff Sgt. Shawn Buffalo, an advisor support trainer for the Iraqi National Guard. "The battalion staff of the 206th and the 39th Brigade planned an outstanding operation."

(Heathscott is the 39th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Officer.)



Photo by 1st Lt. Chris Heathscott

A 'stack' of Iraqi National Guard soldiers moves forward to clear a house of any potential threats before a team of searchers moves in to look for weapons, anti-Iraq propaganda or other illegal contraband.

Spectrum



Retired servicemember Roger Saman and his wife Dee of Mankato, Minn., talk with Advanced Individual Training Soldiers (center) Pfc. Judah Bowens and Pvt. Terrence Kennedy both of Company B, 551st Signal Battalion, during the retirees' tour of the School of Information Technology Friday. Nineteen people toured Fort Gordon.

Photos by Pfc. Armando Monroig

Signal Soldiers back where they began

Pfc. Armando Monroig
Signal staff

Looking at things again for the first time – and in this case literally – is something very few have the opportunity to do.

That's what many of the participants of a tour group that visited Fort Gordon for the first time in more than 50 years got a chance to do – compare Camp Gordon to Fort Gordon – and see if there was any of the old left in the new.

Visitors from various parts of the country – Florida, Iowa and Minnesota to name a few – took a trip down memory lane as the former Signal Soldiers visited Fort Gordon Friday.

Nine Soldiers who were part of the 8751st Army Auxiliary Unit/ Southeastern Signal School, Company 23, held their reunion here, and brought along their wives to show them where they were trained during the Korean Conflict.

Some members of the tour group were from basic training Companies 5 and 7 that graduated July 1951 when the post was still known as Camp Gordon.

Several members of the Southeastern Signal School, Company 23 that graduated Nov. 1951, were assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency.

John Caja from Cleveland, Ohio, was stationed at Camp Gordon in 1951 while at

cryptography school.

"(I) can't relate to it anymore – it's so different," said Caja, who was 19-years-old when he was here. "Nothing like what it was like when I was here."

Although there is very little of Camp Gordon in Fort Gordon, Caja said it was nice to reunite here with his old battle-buddies.

"It's good to meet old friends again, get together and talk about old times," he said.

Tour participants began their day at Signal Towers as they were given a VIP briefing at the Regimental conference room on the 10th floor and a balcony tour to view post.

The group was greeted by

Maj. Gen. Jan Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and post commanding general, and Brig. Gen. Greg Premo, U.S. Army Signal Center and post deputy commanding general.

Following the briefing, the group was given a tour of the School of Information Technology at Dixon Hall where Sgt. 1st Class Herman Wilson, instructor in the Enlisted Training Division, briefed the guests on the 25D course (telecommunications center operator-maintainer).

Next, the tour took the guests to Hazen Hall where they met Sgt. 1st Class Donald Poole, an instructor assigned to Company A, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, who gave a short briefing on the 35E course (radio COMSEC repairer).

In addition, Staff Sgt. Michael Jackson, instructor at the soldering lab, gave the group a briefing on the tools the students use to do hands-on training.

After that, the guests took a break from their tour and had lunch with members of the 73rd Ordnance Battalion, who were having their organizational day on Barton Field.

There they were given the opportunity to talk to Soldiers.

Guests were then taken to the 73rd Ordnance Battalion, Company C barracks, where they were allowed to see how today's Soldiers lived in their training environment.

The tour group then made its way to the Signal Museum where they were given a wig-wag flag demonstration

and looked at the exhibits.

Finally the guests visited sights around post such as Freedom Park, the POW-MIA Monument, and old World War II-era buildings just to name a few.

Dick Naragon from Fairborn, Ohio, and the organizer of the reunion and tour group, said he wanted to get all the cryptographers together to where it all started for them.

"Difference between day and night," said Naragon. "All the structures were wood back then."

He said he is happy with what Fort Gordon has become adding that it is a "first-class facility" and that he was "very proud to come back here for our reunion."



Tour group walks through the Signal Museum after receiving a wig-wag flag demonstration from the museum staff.



(Above) Former Signal Soldier Jim Wenman and his wife Sally of Coralville, Iowa, look at some of the soldering equipment AIT Soldiers use at the Soldering Lab in Hazen Hall.



(Left) An old photo of the 1950s student barracks at Camp Gordon from one of the tour group participants shows the difference in the structures compared to today's student barracks.